

American Big 3 Automakers and their employees.

On April 1st of 2007, Mr. O'Neill opened his café in downtown Ferndale. From day one, Mr. O'Neill made a commitment to his community to do what he could to make Southeast Michigan a better place.

In late fall of 2008, during the Auto crisis, Mr. O'Neill started the "I Pledge America" campaign. The pledge is simple, "I promise America that, on my honor, when I buy a new vehicle, it will be a Detroit-born, Big Three (Ford, GM or Chrysler) automobile." I am proud to count myself among the over ten thousand signatories to this pledge.

After seeing the success of the "I Pledge America" campaign, Mr. O'Neill was inspired to do more. Starting on March 20th, 2009, and continuing 24 hours a day 7 days a week until April 1st, 2009, Mr. O'Neill hosted the first annual "Assembly Line Concert." The concert was a 288 hour marathon, featuring over 300 bands performing in honor and support of the domestic auto industry, with proceeds donated to the families of laid off auto workers. Due to the incredible success and length of this concert, Mr. O'Neill established a new Guinness World Record for the "longest continuous music concert by multiple artists."

Today represents the start of a new chapter in Mr. O'Neill's story as he hosts the "Second Annual Assembly Line Concert." This concert will exhibit 312 hours of continuous music performed by well over 300 bands and musical artists. Mr. O'Neill is poised to break his own Guinness record for the longest continuous music concert, with proceeds once again going to the families of struggling auto workers in Southeast Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. A.J. O'Neill's dedication to the domestic auto industry, its tens of thousands of employees and retirees and the communities of Southeast Michigan as we work to rebuild and revitalize Michigan together.

CONGRATULATING DAVID KENNEY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. David Kenney. Recently, both David and his business, Westrux International Inc., were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

David's business, Westrux International, Inc., consists of six dealer locations employing 213 people. Westrux International, Inc., has

now earned the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 13 times. David's dealership is also a multi-year winner of the IdealGold Award for Excellence, awarded to "IdealLease affiliates dedicated to success in the lease and rental industry."

These awards are a testament to Dave's reputation as a leader in the trucking industry through many years of hard work in the industry and service to his community. His leadership in the trucking industry is evident by his serving as chairman of the International Dealer Council and has also chaired the Parts Dealer Advisory Board. In his community, he is a member of a leadership coaching group, Vistage International. Additionally, Dave sits on St. Mary's College of California's School of Economics and Business Administration Advisory Board. Dave is also a devoted husband to his wife Jill, and father to four children.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating David Kenney for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community, the State of California, and our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 12, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I request that the RECORD show that had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 109 (on passage of H.R. 3650), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 110 (on approving the journal), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 111 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4506, as amended).

CONGRATULATING ED KYRISH

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Ed Kyrish. Recently, both Ed and his business, Texas Truck Centers of Houston, Ltd., were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Family owned and operated since 1988, Texas Truck Centers of Houston, Ltd., is one of the premier truck dealerships in the country. Ed's business employs 264 people at five

dealer locations. In January of 2010, Ed and the International Truck community celebrated his 60th year of service to International. Ed and Texas Truck Centers have earned the Circle of Excellence Award 13 times.

The many awards that Ed and Texas Truck Centers earn are a testament to his reputation as a leader in the trucking industry. Ed serves as a member of the Parts Advisory Board of International's dealer organization. Ed has also been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from International. Additionally, Ed has been recognized as an ADT Dealer of the Year.

Ed is also dedicated to his community. He co-founded the Richland Youth Organization's Girl's Softball League, served as softball league and Little League manager, and served as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America. Ed also is a devoted member of his school board and its fundraising committee, is a supporter of its Adopt A Family initiative, and is the chairman of his church board.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ed Kyrish for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community.

CONGRATULATING BLAINE ROBERTS

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Blaine Roberts. Recently, both Blaine and his business, Roberts Truck Center, were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Roberts Truck Center has grown into one of the premier truck dealerships in the Southwest. Blaine manages 8 of the 13 dealer locations that are part of the Roberts Truck Center family business, owned by Blaine and his brother Blair. The Roberts Truck Center employs 467 people and has earned the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 26 times.

Blaine has earned this recognition and accomplishment through years of hard work and being a dedicated servant of his community. He is committed to his industry and serves on a number of industry groups and boards including the International Dealer Development and Systems Board.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Blaine for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community.